

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 20, 2004

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:


We are writing in anticipation of an imminent request by Governor James E. McGreevey of New Jersey, to ask that you issue a disaster declaration for parts of Hunterdon, Mercer, Sussex and Warren counties along the Delaware River in New Jersey. This past weekend, 10 inches of rain from the remnants of Hurricane Ivan fell in these counties, which were already saturated from Hurricane Frances and an unusually wet summer.

The storm caused the waters of the Delaware River to rise to 23.8 feet above flood stage. This resulted in severe property damage, the evacuation of over 3,300 people from their homes, and the closing of the State Capitol in Trenton. Further, local officials have identified significant public health concerns due to sewer line ruptures, infrastructure damage, possible drinking water contamination and the closure of several flooded sewage treatment facilities.

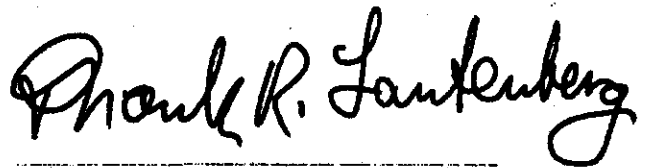
The residents are in need of federal assistance to immediately help them recover from this devastation. Your prompt disaster declaration would enable the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to begin the task of helping our residents.

Thank you for your immediate attention in this matter.


Sincerely,



JON S. CORZINE
United States Senate



FRANK R. LAUTENBERG
United States Senate



RUSH D. HOLT
Member of Congress